

As I said, I have been impressed locally at some of the work that has been done in their planning, but the 9/11 Commission just simply, I think, as Democrats, we have said our first priorities would be to address some of the shortcomings, and that includes interoperability for all of our first responders, fire and police personnel.

Second, it would be to coordinate local, State and Federal emergency response planning, that we would make sure that the administration provide local and State governments with the tools and the guidance to better secure our communities and make sure communities are secure and that we ensure that the administration makes strategic and risk-based decisions about how our homeland security dollars are spent so that we are smart, we use common sense and that we use these dollars in the most effective, wisest way possible.

In that way, we can stand up here and I hope we can months from now, a year from now, be able to say, you know, we got these things done because it was not just a broad rhetorical commitment, it was putting our dollars, putting our expertise to work for the American people to make sure that our homeland is as secure as we all deserve.

With that, I want to thank the gentlemen who joined me this evening for your willingness to do the freshman Special Order, and I look forward to being able to do it again, possibly in September, but thank you and thank you for your commitment to both the veterans of this country and also to the homeland security needs of this Nation.

RECENT EVENTS IN ISRAEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is recognized for half the time remaining until midnight.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the privilege to address you, and in doing so, Mr. Speaker, the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

I come to the floor tonight to address the subject matter that has had the world sitting on the edge of its seat and somewhat transfixed for the last about 13 days, those days that the military actions began in Israel. I take us back and lay some of the groundwork on that and perhaps lay some of the framework of the history that has brought us to this point and as fellows travelers in the world.

Israel was established as a Nation in 1948. The many thousands and thousands of refugees from the Second World War, those that survived the Holocaust, the Shoah, from the Nazi attack and the Nazi hatred, the Nazi anti-Semitism, the Nazi bigotry and the deep, seems to be abiding, anti-Semitism that I do not understand that some in the Western European

culture, in fact, that anti-Semitism that seems to be growing from those roots yet today, not just the Muslims that have migrated into Western Europe, but also the native Western Europeans do not stand up and defend Israel in the fashion that I believe they should because we have a lot in common with Israel.

They are a free country. They are a democratic country, and aside from Iraq, they are still the only place in that hemisphere, let me say the only place in the Middle East, where an Arab can go to get a fair trial is in Israel.

Israel is a Nation established in 1948, approval by the United Nations, but a Nation that was carved out in a fight for freedom. It was a glorious fight, and it was one that was brought from the theme never again, never, never again will they allow an annihilation, a genocide to take their people.

That is why we stand with them today, Mr. Speaker. We stand with the Israelis because they stand for freedom, and because they elect their leaders and they come together in the Knesset, and they have a prime minister and they choose their national destiny.

But they have enemies that surround them, enemies all around them, and that was proven in 1967, the 6 Days War, and this has helped frame, for me, the history of Israel and their defiant, brave, courageous leadership that has kept them sovereign and kept them free.

□ 2250

But that happened to be the year I graduated from high school, and that was the year, as things happened, that was burned into my memory.

And not that long after that, in 1973, the second war, second great war that Israel had after their independence, where once again they prevailed over their enemies and they established their boundaries and justly earned territory. It was the effort of their enemies around them, the Arab nations that surrounded them, to drive the Israelis into the sea, to annihilate Israel, and to wipe Israel from the face of the Earth.

In fact, they still deny the reality of the existence of a sovereign and free country called Israel. It doesn't show up on the maps in many of the Arab nations. They will not acknowledge that since 1948, that would be 58 years, they still don't acknowledge that Israel is a sovereign nation.

In fact, if you look at the United Nations, resolution after resolution, Mr. Speaker, comes to the United Nations, and that Third World-class enemy debate society lines up invariably with resolutions against Israel. They aren't rooted in justice, Mr. Speaker. They are rooted in bigotry and hatred and anti-Semitism.

There is something the Arabs cannot explain to me when I ask them the question, Why do your people hate

Israel so much? It is rooted deeper in history than I have been able to unravel, but I know it exists today.

I had a high school student in my office not that long ago from Oman, and I asked him if he believed Israel had a right to exist; and his answer was, no, I don't believe they do. I said, what would you do with the Israelis? And he said, rather flippantly, send them to Oregon. I said, well, if that doesn't work, to send them to Oregon, what would your next alternative be? He said, I don't care what happens. They have no reason to be there; they have no right to exist as a nation.

It is one little piece of real estate on the entire Earth. Isn't there one place in all that continent, in all of the Middle East, in all of Africa where they can live in peace and safety without their enemies seeking to annihilate them? Such has not been the case, Mr. Speaker. Yet the Israelis have bent over backwards and have tried time after time after time, with peace accord after peace accord, to try to find a way to come to peace with their neighbors.

I think sometimes they try so hard that they do some things that don't appear to be something that is predictable and predictably positive. For example, the efforts of land for peace, as we watched this unfold and we saw Israel give up a piece of real estate here and a small piece of real estate there, but also looked to see where they needed to defend themselves.

And one of those places would be the Golan Heights. The Golan Heights sits up above the Jordan River Valley, up near Lebanon. I have been up there in the Golan Heights. They were occupied by Syria. The Syrians put gun emplacements up there. The Jordan River Valley is flat and fertile and beautiful, and the Syrians would sit up on those heights and they would take target practice against the Israeli farmers that were out in the field.

It is something to sit in those gun emplacements now and look down over that valley and see what the Syrians were looking at as they were picking off Israeli farmers who were trying to feed the people in their country. It is something to meet a widow whose husband was killed there as he went out into the field to try to get the farmers off the field and get them to safety as the Syrians, just for no reason, seemed to open up fire occasionally and begin to shoot at Israelis that were farming in the fields.

It is something to see what it is like for a nation that is surrounded by enemies, and sometimes strategically have a disadvantage because of elevation, because of certain tactical situations that they have, and to see a nation try so hard to come to peace with their neighbors.

It is something to watch the Israelis pull out of the Gaza Strip and cede that piece of ground to the Palestinians. What is also something to watch is when there is a free election in Palestine, the area I guess that is referred

to as Palestine, it is mostly the West Bank in Gaza, it is something to watch that and see Hamas come to power and take over and rule in the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank and in Gaza. You wonder what kind of people would elect terrorists to rule them.

Well, the kind of people that have been teaching their young people for generations now to hate Israelis, hate Israelis, hate Israelis, for reasons I don't understand, and they don't need to understand, apparently.

But they elect terrorists to run their government, and then, when they have land for peace and Gaza is handed over to the Palestinian Authority, under the control of Hamas, we have Prime Minister Olmert come to this very Chamber, Mr. Speaker, not that long ago, and in his speech talk to us about his idea to bring 50 to 100 Jewish settlements out of the West Bank and move them up close to the fence, appropriately, and sometimes for protection it needs to be a wall; or bring some of them inside the fence and into Jerusalem so that the Jewish settlers from these 50 to 100 settlements can be protected from being annihilated by their neighbors because of their neighbors' hatred, bigotry, and anti-Semitism.

It is something to watch that, and see how hard a nation has tried to make peace with the people among them who are not like them. It is something to be there and see that 20 percent of the Israeli population is Arab; something to know that the Arabs in Israel go to the polls and they vote, just like the Jews do. They can serve in the Knesset, and they do, roughly in proportion to their population as a whole. They can serve in the supreme court. And in fact, Ariel Sharon, when he was active prime minister, appointed an Arab to the Israeli supreme court, full rights of property ownership, rights of citizenship, and rights to vote.

And some will argue that, well, there is bigotry there. But still we are not watching Jews killing Palestinians because they are Palestinians. We are watching Israelis defending themselves from terrorists attacks.

So they said, we will give you Gaza; give us peace. Land for you, peace for each of us, an idea that I can't find has a precedent of ever having worked in history, but, nonetheless, Mr. Speaker, that was the effort. So the Gaza Strip went over to Hamas and the Palestinians. And the effort in the West Bank hadn't quite taken shape down the vision of Prime Minister Olmert yet as to moving the Jewish settlements out of the West Bank. Taking the Jews out of Judea, Mr. Speaker, a place where Jews have lived since antiquity, in an effort for peace. Thousands of years of history traded off in an effort for land for peace.

We know what the answer is. And for 18 years the Israeli Army had to occupy Lebanon in order to make sure that there weren't going to be attacks coming from there down on to Israel

from the north. Yet, after all those years, in the year 2000 they finally deployed out of Lebanon, and in that interim, this 6-year period of time, even though we had United Nations Resolution 1559 that said that Hezbollah had to disarm and they had to step back out of their involvement in Lebanon, a very clear resolution by the United Nations and one that was never enforced, it is typical if you let the United Nations enforce something it is never enforced, so for 6 years Hezbollah, the terrorist organization, brought in armament into southern Lebanon.

They dug bunkers and poured concrete and brought in rockets, and they brought in missiles, and they got more heavily armed and they got better trained. There are 5,000 Hezbollah troops, at least, in Lebanon, in uniform, paid every month, funded out of Iran, with military supplies out of Iran, smuggled through Syria, either over the air or through seaports, through Syria and down into Lebanon. Fully armed, fully protected, fully trained, fully funded. Every month paychecks coming from Iran into the hands of Hezbollah troops, uniformed and ready to take on the Israelis in southern Lebanon. For what purpose?

And their agreement, Mr. Speaker, was that they would avoid a conflict with Israel because so much of Lebanon had been destroyed in the previous conflicts. And as the reconstruction of Lebanon began, they couldn't afford to have another war. They couldn't afford to have their buildings, their airports, their bridges, and their highways demolished in the bombardment that would come if there was another war. So the peace between the Lebanese and Hezbollah was kind of a peace tied together on this implicit promise, this tension that Hezbollah would not bring a war on Lebanon.

And here we sat with a static position in the north, with Hezbollah with 12,000 or more rockets and perhaps 100 or more long-range missiles in their possession, with Iranians in their midst, trained and ready to go, sitting there in this static position looking across at Israel while Hamas organized in Gaza in the south and began to be prepared. We knew it was going to happen, that they were going to attack Israel. And so they began to send sporadic rockets out of Gaza, homemade rockets, some of them, over into Israel. Many of them landed in benign places; some of them did not.

□ 2300

But as this went on, this static situation was here, Iran is fueling and funding the Hezbollah in the north and we believe also, to a lesser degree, Hamas in the south. Then as the world turned their pressure on Iran, as Iran moved forward towards developing nuclear capability, the capability to produce nuclear weaponry, nuclear bombs, and the means to deliver it, and that means missiles that they can put their warheads on, and if that missile can reach

from Iran to Tel Aviv, that will be the first target. But they would not be satisfied just to have missiles that would reach to Tel Aviv, but they needed to have missiles that would reach to Europe and then perhaps one day across to the United States. If they can do that, if they have a nuclear capability, Mr. Speaker, then they can threaten the rest of the world. And the radical regime led by Ahmadinejad see themselves as martyr fighters for a nation. They think that the 12th Imam will arrive if they just kill enough people who are non-Muslims, nonbelievers, infidels. That means everyone else, to keep it short. But as the world pressure turned up on Iran to stop their efforts to develop nuclear capability, and that happened through the House of Representatives as well, Mr. Speaker, in the discussions that I had with representatives of the Western European nations regarding this and many of the rest of us in this Congress had those conversations as well, it became clear to me that I didn't see the will to enforce anything in the part of the Western European nations. But there are a couple of nations that do have the will, a couple of nations that will not tolerate, Mr. Speaker, a nuclear armed delivery capable Iran, and that would be Israel and the United States. Israel because they are the first bulls eye with the crosshairs on them all the time. The United States because we have a responsibility to the rest of the world, being the world's only super power, and we promote freedom and we protect freedom where it exists because we know that we never go to war against another free people. Free people find ways of resolving their differences among other free people.

The stage was set, and as the pressure from the world and the United Nations and the need to finally demand that Iran give up their effort to build a nuclear weaponry and missiles to deliver it, as that developed, the pressure got high enough where it became clear that the rest of the world was going to find some ways to put some sanctions on Iran. And the path of this likely would have been to shut off some of their funding, limit or prohibit the travel of their leaders, find a way to set up sanctions first and perhaps a blockade next, the world's stopping doing business with Iran. And we know that there are countries that have conflicting interests there, countries that would not stand with us, and Russia and China likely could have been a couple, although it is surely in their interest to avoid nuclear capability in that part of the world. Russia is a lot closer to Iran than the United States is. So we have some cooperation there but not the level that we would like to see.

But Iran could see the pressure coming. And just as things were coming to a head in the United Nations, just as the United Nations was prepared to act, coincidentally, some will say, but most of the world will see clearly through the ruse when the attacks

from Hamas came out of Gaza and the attacks from Hezbollah came out of Lebanon, on to Israel from the south and from the north almost simultaneously. Rocket attacks from both places. Military incursions up, one through a tunnel up into Israel where they took on Israel IDF troops and captured soldiers, almost simultaneously. And when that happened, when the Israelis did what they had to do, the idea of counterattack, they had to go into Gaza, go in and engage, identify some of the enemy, and then pull back out and disengage. They have been doing that for some days now, Mr. Speaker. And they will have to demonstrate to Hamas down in Gaza that they will be back there with the full presence in Gaza unless the violence stops and unless the prisoners are returned. And they cannot be negotiating land for peace this time. In fact, it ought to be the other way around. It can be we will take this land back, it was ours, you didn't follow through on your part of this bargain.

As I watch what is unfolding here, Mr. Speaker, the coordinated attacks on the part of Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon, both were designed to take the pressure off of Iran. Both were designed to change the subject in the world, to take the pressure off so that Iran would not have to be dealing with the pressure of the United Nations, the pressure that was coming from United States, from Germany, from France, from Great Britain.

That is the effort that we need to continue. We need to keep turning the pressure up on Iran. They cannot be allowed to believe that we do not have the will to follow forward with this and shut off their nuclear capability at some point. In fact, Mr. Speaker, that message needs to be sent more clearly now than ever before. Coordinated attacks, both funded, I believe, by Iran.

In fact, the leader of Hamas, Mr. Kaled Meshal, I am going to check this name to make sure I get this right. Kaled Meshal, the overall leader of Hamas, who generally is in Damascus, did go to Tehran, by the information I have. The information I have, and it is not supported fully yet, but it indicates that he was handed \$50 million in cash shortly before Hamas attacked Israel out of the Gaza Strip in the south. Now, if that happened with Hamas, an organization that is not naturally aligned with Iran because Hamas is Sunni and Iran Shia, but if that happened, it is part of this theory that we always know: "The enemy of my enemy is my friend." So as they have a common enemy, being Israel, they can get together, and with the proper transfer of cash, Hamas could take this minor risk and do these excursions and then attack Israel from the south.

Hezbollah had a lot higher risk, and I do not know what might have happened with regard to funding there, but I know this, that Iran has been funding them all along. So they surely had a

lot stronger tie and Teheran is a spiritual center for Hezbollah, where they send troops in there to be trained. They bring their philosophy down to Lebanon. They have been a surrogate of Iran for a long time. But the price for Hezbollah was a lot higher because their implicit agreement, the kind of unspoken agreement, with Lebanon was: Do not bring war on us. We do not want to see the things we built destroyed. We do not want to lose our peace here. We have a fledgling democracy, even though 20 percent of that fledgling democracy are elected Hezbollah leaders within that organization. So Hezbollah took the risk and attacked Israel and started firing rockets, sometimes by the hundreds. And as this has unfolded, it has become clear that this is a gambit that has been coordinated, orchestrated, and operated by Iran. And Syria is complicit in this. And that is why they have been in the crosshairs of Israel as well.

So the pressure is on right there in the center of the bulls eye, where much of the world's conflict has been. And land has never been traded for peace in a successful fashion. Now, we need to look at a way that we can resolve this issue once and for all. And I am not sure we can get there, Mr. Speaker. But I would submit this, that Israel is the center of the bulls eye. The pressure that comes on Israel is coming from the Arab nations, some to a greater and some to a lesser degree. But a lot of them have signed up in this. Many of them launched the attacks in 1967 and in 1973. They are still on the suspect list. They still have people in those countries at least, even if it is not an official policy of their nation, to send money, send support, send military troops, send terrorists in to put pressure on Israel. Israel is the center of this bulls eye. And the direct pressure has come now from Hamas out of Gaza and Hezbollah out of Lebanon to do a dual attack on Israel and put them in a two-front war in the north and the south, funded by Iran, cooperated with and coordinated and logistically passing a lot of materials through Syria.

Now, we also know that the Sunnis in Saudi Arabia, some of them are supportive of this, although their regime there appears to be more inclined to want to support peace and maintain a level of stability. But that surrounding of Israel is something that one needs to look at like a bulls eye. Israel's being the dead center red part of the bulls eye, and as the surrounding countries around that bulls eye move out, I would submit this, Mr. Speaker: The problem of the violence and the attacks on Israel cannot be resolved by simply declaring that there be a ceasefire in Gaza, that there be a ceasefire in Lebanon. It cannot be solved by negotiating with Hamas or Hezbollah.

□ 2310

That is because their mission statements don't coincide with anything

that we believe in. They don't coincide with freedom. They don't allow Israel to exist. They won't acknowledge Israel's right to exist.

They will continue to preach hatred, they will continue to act on hatred, they will continue to seek genocide against the Israeli people. They will continue to drive them into the sea, Mr. Speaker. That is their effort.

People that are that fanatical without a rational goal in mind, you can put them in power and elect them to government, like they have been by the Palestinian people, the Hamas in the West Bank and Gaza, and the 20 percent of the fledgling Lebanese democracy that has elected Hezbollah. If they were handed over the reins of power, Mr. Speaker, I would submit that it would be a boring life for someone who has been a military terrorist and all the glory and intensity that comes with that and say, okay, now it is your job to be the minister of education, or the minister of the interior, or the minister of transportation, or maybe the secretary of state.

They are not cut out for that. That is not part of their mission. They don't envision themselves as one day being a legitimate leader with a legitimate government on the world stage sitting at the United Nations, or negotiating at the roundtable in Brussels, or visiting the White House in the United States, or speaking on the floor of this Congress here at the United States Congress, Mr. Speaker. They don't envision that at all. They envision themselves being modern day warlords, taking terror to people who are not like them and seeking their path to salvation, which their path would be that if they can kill enough people that are not like them, then they go to their eternal reward.

Mr. Speaker, I said about enough about the eternal reward of a religion that is so steeped in that kind of hatred, but I would submit this: This Nation, this United States of America, must stand with Israel. We must make it clear that they dare not blink, and we will not blink. We will stand with them with everything necessary to preserve and protect them from being annihilated by the hatred that surrounds them, and for a number of good reasons. They are the vanguard for freedom in the Middle East, Mr. Speaker. They stand for freedom. They treat everyone in their country on an equal standing with the right to vote, own property, serve in the Knesset, serve on the supreme court. Full standing for everyone. They are a vision for what the future of the Middle East can be, yet a lot of the rest of the world doesn't stand with them the way they need to.

Another reason we need to stand with Israel is they stand up for themselves. We have supported them with foreign ops money and they have invested it in military equipment, supplies and training, and they are one of the best trained, most ready militaries in the

world. But they know they don't have room for error, Mr. Speaker.

A small error on the part of the Israelis and in 24 to 48 hours they could be driven into the sea. It tends to concentrate the mind at that moment in history, and they have always risen to the occasion, but they know they can't be complacent.

And we can't be complacent, Mr. Speaker. We need to be following through on the Bush doctrine. We need to be promoting freedom throughout the Middle East, and taking a look at Afghanistan as a nation now with 25 million free people, people that have gone to the polls and voted on that place in the planet for the first time in the history of the world there in Afghanistan. Yes, they have their troubles over there, but they are pulling together and they are fighting off the kind of resistance that seems to want to form and then disappear again.

But Afghanistan is on track, and I don't think anybody argues that we did the right thing going into Afghanistan, unless things go badly. Then I hear the argument, well, we should have done something differently. But it is never a Democrat that gets criticized for any decisions, I would point out, Mr. Speaker.

Then in Iraq, 25 million people, a more difficult proposition. But we have been in Iraq now since March of 2003. It is a little over 3 years. In that period of time, there have been three nationwide, free elections. They have established a written constitution and ratified the constitution. They have established a government. They now have a prime minister.

They had difficulty after the election to get to that point where they could agree on a cabinet and form a government, but they did that. When they formed the government, it has been now about 2 months since they have had a minister of defense and a minister of the interior. And now we have a prime minister that has a leadership capability, and he is stepping forward and he is enforcing security and safety with a military arm that he has control of in Iraq. That part is moving forward.

But it has been a long, difficult row to hoe; a long, hard slog, to quote Secretary Rumsfeld. But a lot the reason for that, Mr. Speaker, has been the involvement on the part of Syria and to a far greater degree the involvement on the part of Iran injecting themselves into the operations in Iraq.

Iran does not have an interest in the safety and security of Iraq. They have an interest in the instability in Iraq. So they have been sending people and money and munitions into Iraq in an effort to try to destabilize the whole nation, if they can.

As the civilian violence has gone up the last 2 to 3 months in Iraq, it has gotten more and more dangerous in that country, and we often see casualty numbers that go 50 a day or even higher on the part of civilians bombed.

I will submit to you, Mr. Speaker, that had we been able to shut Iran out of this conflict, had we been able to shut Syria out of this conflict, if it would have stayed just Iraq and the coalition forces that were there, this conflict would have been over perhaps a year-and-a-half ago. Maybe even longer ago.

The casualties that American forces, coalition forces and Iraqi civilians have suffered, many of them have been casualties fomented by a hostile neighbor, Iran.

I will remind you, Mr. Speaker, of the President's statement. The President's statement is if you are a terrorist, if you harbor terrorists, if you fund terrorists, if you support terrorists, you are a terrorist. That means you are our enemy and we are coming after you.

But Iran has been harboring terrorists, has been funding terrorists, has been supporting terrorists. Although that is going on, and I am talking in those references about terrorists in Iraq, Mr. Speaker, but they have also been training, harboring, funding terrorists, Hezbollah, in south Lebanon and supplying them with rockets and supplying them with a lesser number of missiles, and in fact supplying them with troops of their own that have been in Lebanon helping to fire a Cruise-type missile that hit an Israeli ship early on in this operation about perhaps 11 days or so ago.

That is a terrorist country. That is part of the axis of evil. That is a nation that threatens the world with a current or future capability to produce nuclear weapons and to have a means to deliver those nuclear weapons.

Iran had advisers on location in North Korea when North Korea decided to celebrate our 4th of July by setting off a series of missiles that went over the Sea of Japan. They were fizzled missiles mostly, Mr. Speaker, but missiles nonetheless.

With Iranian observers there in North Korea, presumably this was part of the purchasing agents for Iran that were there while they put on a little show of force in North Korea, perhaps for the idea they would be selling those missiles to the Iranians. And if North Korea has a nuclear capability, and most of us believe they do, how do we know they have not already sold a nuclear weapon to Iran? How do we know that those transactions have not taken place?

In fact, Kadafi in Libya made the statement the other day, and I think it was just yesterday, that he was a lot further along on his nuclear capability than anyone knew that he was.

This can't happen, Mr. Speaker. If a nuclear weapon had been sold to the Iranians, has been sold at this point, and if they have a missile that will deliver it, then this regime that is in Iran today is far more dangerous than we are treating it.

I would submit to this body, Mr. Speaker, that we need to look at this

thing from a broader perspective. Generally when violence breaks out in a war, we always want to scramble and do shuttle diplomacy and get our Secretary of State there and say, hold it, shut it down, shut off the firing, kind of like we are breaking up a bar fight.

Well, this isn't like that under these circumstances, Mr. Speaker, because if the firing stops now, there are still many Hezbollah and many rockets in southern Lebanon with many places to hide them. And this is a people that will hide rockets inside a house that has women and children in it, pull one outside the house, set it up, fire it into Israel and run back inside again, or leave the premises, so when the counter-assault comes, there are civilian casualties that occur.

If you hide rockets and missiles and troops in residential areas and you house them in people's houses, then you have to expect there isn't a way to avoid civilian collateral damage. It is bound to happen.

But this is a hateful people with a mission in mind to annihilate Israel. If that happens, if that should happen, shame on us for not acting soon enough. And I will submit, Mr. Speaker, that if someone has to take out this nuclear capability of Iran, it would be better for us to do it than it would be for Israel.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, the odds of avoiding it are pretty slim. With this rabid regime that is there in Iran, it almost comes down to this question, the question being are we willing to live with a nuclear Iran or are we willing to take the steps necessary to eliminate their nuclear capability? I am for diplomacy. I am for turning up the diplomacy. I am for turning up the sanctions. I am for shutting down commerce with Iran. I am for blockading them, if we can go that far. Every step from A to Z, I will follow all of them.

□ 2320

Mr. Speaker, I say quickly, because if we do not, then what we will see is the day that it becomes too late. And the day that it could become too late could be the day that the mushroom cloud rises over Tel Aviv, or the day that they aim their missile at us and say, well, you did not know it, but now we have the capability to reach the east coast of the United States.

That is almost an inevitability if we do not stop them at some point. They have a religious fanaticism that drives them. They do not act like a rational State. They cannot be deterred by mutually-assured destruction, because their own destruction, they believe sends them to their own salvation.

But they are there to create violence, to attack people who are not like them, not just to attack western civilization, but all other civilization, Mr. Speaker.

We need to look at this at how we are going to find peace in that part of the world. I submit it has got to come from without first, and merge down to the

bulls-eye that is Israel. If we try to do it any other way, we are simply putting a band-aid on a bleeding wound.

So Hezbollah has got to be annihilated out of Lebanon, and Hamas has got to be controlled in Gaza. But meanwhile, Iran has got to be taken out of this picture so they are not funding training and fomenting war in places like Iraq and in Israel.

But they are doing so in both places right now and they are getting away with it, Mr. Speaker. We have to put a stop to that. We have to understand our enemy before we can do that.

This Nation needs to have the will to do what we need to do. During this process of sanctions and perhaps a blockade and shutting off the economic capability of Iran to continue to conduct war, and to develop nuclear, while this is going on, I ask our President to prepare this country for the job that may be ahead of us, and it may well be something that can save millions of lives.

But it would be disastrous to wake up in the morning some morning and find out that we waited too long, that a mushroom cloud went up over Tel Aviv, and perhaps there was a missile on its way to western Europe, or a missile on its way to the east coast of the United States, and perhaps millions of people could die in this process.

This does not include smuggling those kind of weapons of mass destruction across the borders into the United States, which are still far too porous. There comes a time to act, Mr. Speaker. I am not submitting that time is right now.

But I am submitting that we need to establish a time frame and be ready. We need to look at the countries out there in the world, and determine what are their motives, what can we count on them doing, what have they told us they are going to do, and they have told us they are here to annihilate us. They repeat that over and over again.

There are people in Iran that remember the times that they lived in a modern world. They hunger for that modern world again. They are repressed by the regime that they have. They had leaders that came forward as candidates that wanted to run for office in the recent elections that they had.

But the mullahs shut them down, peeled them out, put some of them in jail and prohibited the candidates of the people of Iran from running for office so that they could choose their own leaders.

The people in Iran deserve freedom. We need to hear from the people of Iran. We need to hear what they have to say about how hungry they are for freedom. But they had a constitution that was established in 1906. It was established August 5, 1906 in Iran. And the Constitution speaks, for the most part, the same way our constitution speaks, for freedom.

Freedom for the Iranian people. The 100-year anniversary comes up on August 5, 2006. The century celebration

for the constitution of Iran. Let that be an inspiration to the people in Iran.

30-SOMETHING WORKING GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT) is recognized for the balance of the time until midnight.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I am not going to consume all of the time. I thought that I was going to be joined by my colleagues from the 30 Something Group, but it would appear tonight that only the "something" is here and the 30s have taken the night off.

But I had listened to my dear friend from Iowa earlier, and I thought that I would stay for a few minutes to make some observations. He spoke eloquently and sincerely about anti-Semitism.

I know he decries anti-Semitism, as I believe every Member in this body does. But he specifically alluded to western Europe and anti-Semitism. I think it is important for us to note the remarks just recently of the Speaker of the House of the new Iraqi Parliament.

Those remarks, I dare say, can only be interpreted as anti-Semitic, and they are in my judgment disturbing, and, yes, even dangerous. So while we speak of the new Iraqi Government and what we are told they are about, I think it is extremely important to listen, to educate ourselves, and inform the American people.

I, myself, and several of my colleagues will be introducing a resolution condemning, condemning the remarks of the Speaker of the House of the new Iraqi Parliament.

Mr. Speaker, let me read what he had to say. "Some people say," these are his words, "we saw you beheading, kidnapping and killing. In the end we even started killing women who are our honor. These acts are not the work of Iraqis, I am sure that he who does this is a Jew, and a son of a Jew. I can tell you about these Jewish Israelis and Zionists who are using Iraqi money and oil to frustrate the Islamic movement in Iraq, and come with their agent and cheap project. No one deserves to rule Iraq other than Islamists."

The same Speaker by the way, had this to say. Listen carefully to these words, Mr. Speaker, "The U.S. occupation is butcher's work, under the slogan of democracy and human rights and justice". This is the Speaker of the Iraqi Parliament, our ally, whose prime minister has been invited to speak to this House this week. I dare say he ought to immediately, upon landing in Washington, D.C. condemn these words.

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I find them disturbing and I am sure, Mr. Speaker, all of our colleagues will find them disturbing.

I am also disturbed by the words of the Iraqi foreign minister who had this to say, Mr. Speaker: Iran doesn't claim that they want to obtain a nuclear weapon or a nuclear bomb, so there is no need that we ask them for any guarantee now. Every country has the right to have its nuclear technology, every country like the Islamic Republic or any other country. I also find that disturbing. We ought not even to pose the question to Iran, according to the Iraqi foreign minister.

And let me finally note the words of the prime minister of Iraq who will address this House this week. And, again, he said these words in reference to the Israeli response after Hezbollah kidnapped two Israeli soldiers and killed others, as well as for 2 days continued to fly their rockets into civilian Israeli communities on the border between Lebanon and Israel: I condemn these aggressions and call on the Arab League foreign ministers meeting in Cairo to take quick action to stop these aggressions. We call on the world to take quick stands to stop the Israeli aggression.

Mr. Speaker, is this new Iraqi Government an ally of the United States? We should reflect on that. Particularly since we have spilled the blood of thousands of Americans on Iraqi soil, where we have given, not loaned, Mr. Speaker, as some of us recommended, but rather given to date \$30 billion in the reconstruction of Iraq. And just this week we are told by the Comptroller General of the United States, David Walker, the head of the Government Accountability Office, that some 50 billion additional dollars are going to be needed simply to restore the oil facilities and the electric grid in Iraq, and that the American taxpayer would have to pay for all of it.

We ought to be thinking carefully about this, Mr. Speaker. These are facts, where the military deployment of Americans has cost in excess of \$300 billion and is escalating every day with no end in sight.

My friend from Iowa talks about Iran. We ought to be aware, Mr. Speaker, there appears to be a special relationship now evolving between Iran and Iraq. There has been agreement after agreement concluded between Iran and Iraq, and the Iranian foreign minister has visited in Baghdad and consulted with the new Iraqi Government. Iran has agreed to construct a new airport in Iraq; they have extended loan credits in the amount of \$1 billion to Iraq. And, Mr. Speaker, I think this is especially important for the American people to know, they have concluded a bilateral military cooperation agreement. Yes, Iran and Iraq have concluded a military agreement. And this week we will be hearing from the Iraqi prime minister.

I could go on and on, Mr. Speaker, but I thought it was important after listening to my friend and colleague that I introduce new information for us to reflect on and to analyze and be honest with the American people.